(b) The target of raising the dam height to elevation (EL) 100.0 metre as per the action-plan could not be achieved due to some delay in the Resettlement & Rehabilitation (R&R) works to be completed by participating States. The States have been trying their best for the R&R of the Project Affected Families (PAF) in a time-bound manner.

(c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its judgement dated 18.10.2000 has laid down a mechanism for further raising of the dam height *pari-passu* with the R&R of PAF. The dam has been completed upto EL 95 metre. The R&R of PAF between EL 95.0 to EL 100.0 metre has almost been completed in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. The Grievances Redressal Authority (GRA) of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat have given their favorable opinion to raise the dam height upto EL 100.0 metre. Consultation with GRA-Maharashtra has also been initiated. According to Government of Maharashtra as well as GRA-Maharashtra, thre are some additional PAF upto EL 100.0 metre who are yet to be resettled in Maharashtra. Also development of civic amenities at one R&R site is yet to be completed. As soon as the R&R of PAF is completed in Maharashtra and the GRA gives its concurrence, the NCA will permit raising of Sardar Sarovar Dam height from EL 95.0 to EL 100.0 metre.

The Union Ministry of Water Resources and NCA are pursuing the matter with the Government of Maharashtra for early completion of R&R works as per the approved Action-Plan.

Lower ground water level

†2149. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN'
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the percentage of land irrigated by canals in the country has declined from 41.3 per cent to 31.3 per cent whereas the percentage of land irrigated from tubewells has increased from 14.3 per cent to 33.8 per cent;

(b) if not, the assessment of Government in this regard; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is a fact that the level of ground water is going down due to the increase in the use of tubewells?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (d) Net Irrigated Area (NIA) figures are compiled by Minister of Agriculture and are published under Land Use Statistics (LUS). As per latest LUS for the year 1998-99, the percentage of land irrigated from canal in 1950-51 was about 40% which comes down to 31.1% in 1998-99, whereas the percentage of land irrigated from tube wells in 1950-51 was less than 0.6% which increased to 35.6% in 1998-99.

(c) The main reasons for decline in ground water level are repid pace of urbanisation; increasing demand for agricultural, industry and domestic purposes; change in cropping pattern and growing paddy and cash crops which consume large quantities of water; and excessive withdrawal of ground water particularly during drought when all other sources shrink.

Clearance for Bheema Lift Irrigation Project

2150. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have been urged that the State Government of Andhra Pradesh to give administrative clearance for the Bheema Lift Irrigation Project, which got the techno-economic clearance in 1996;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has finally given its clearance for the Bheema Lift Irrigation Project;

(c) if so, whether both the Centre and the State have agreed to provide financial help and assistance in implementing the scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Irrigation being a State subject, the responsibility of planning investigation, funding alongwith priority, execution, operation and